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University Libraries
University of South Carolina

Hallie Covington Papers

Author: Covington, Hallie

Date Range: 1837-1976; bulk, 1896-1974

Extent: 8.75 linear ft.

Location: Annex (Materials stored offsite; advance notification required).

Background: Native of Marion, S.C.; Presbyterian missionary to Korea; school teacher; social worker.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1887 Dec. 24** Born Marion, S.C., daughter of Francis Frederick Covington (1852-1935) and Susan Lenora Aycock (1858-1925)
- 1907** B.A., College for Women, Columbia, S.C.
- 1910-1912** Teacher, Belton High School, Belton, S.C.
- 1912-1914** Home Mission Work, Glade Valley High School, Glade Valley, N.C.
- 1914-1915** Bible Teacher's Training Course, Dr. White's Bible School (later The Biblical Seminary), New York, N.Y.
- 1915-1917** Teacher, High School Department, Mitchell College, Statesville, N.C.
- 1917-1923** Foreign missionary, Syenchun, Korea
- 1923-1924** American furlough; studies at The Biblical Seminary, New York, N.Y.
- 1924-1930** Foreign missionary, Syenchun, Korea; principal, Women's Bible Institute
- 1930-1931** American furlough; studies at The Biblical Seminary, New York, N.Y.
- 1935-1936** Graduate studies, The Biblical Seminary, New York, N.Y.; master's degree, Religious Education
- 1937-1941** Foreign missionary, Chairyung, Korea; principal, Women's Bible Institute and Provincial Class
- 1943-1944** Bible teacher, New Hanover High School, Wilmington, N.C.
- 1946-1956** Case worker, Public Welfare Department, Sanford, N.C.
- 1973 Sept. 25** Died, Darlington, S.C.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

A native of Marion, S.C., Hallie Covington graduated in 1907 from the College for Women, Columbia, S.C., and received a master's degree in religious education from the Biblical Seminary of New York in 1936. Between 1917 and 1941 she served as a foreign missionary to Korea under sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, with the exception of two furloughs when she returned to the United States. After retiring from mission work, Miss Covington taught religion in the public schools of Wilmington, N.C., and starting in 1946 was associated as a case worker with the Sanford, N.C., Public Welfare Department. In 1956, she retired to Darlington, S.C., where she lived with her sister, Mrs. Daniel S. DuBose, until her death on 25 Sept. 1973.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of letters to Hallie Covington. However, there is a small but significant component of letters written by Covington while stationed in Korea and on board ship while en route to and from the mission field. A series of personal reports detail her missionary endeavors at Syenchun and Chairyung, Korea. Published materials further document Presbyterian mission work in Korea during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The collection also contains photographs, post

cards, and other visual materials, primarily Korean in origin.

Among the earliest items are letters of Hallie Covington's great-uncle, Harrison W. Covington, written from Connecticut in 1837, to his brother, Col. John W. Covington, and to Charles W.H. Meehan. Also present is the text of an address by Mary Ann Harlee upon the presentation of a flag to the Cheraw Light Infantry, 22 Feb. 1845, and a series of letters, 1846-1849, from Hallie Covington's grandfather, Benjamin Hamilton Covington (1812-1866), to Mary Ann Harlee (d. 1876), whom he married in 1847. In addition to family and household news, these letters relate news of B.H. Covington's trip to Alabama and refer to family servant Rosa, who is further represented by three letters, 1886-1890.

The collection contains no Civil War documents. Family correspondence continues after the war with letters, 1881-1887, between Covington brothers David, Francis Frederick, and Ted. Also present is Aycock family correspondence, including a series of letters, 1885-1895, between Lenora Aycock Covington and her mother, Elizabeth Aycock, brother W.J. Aycock, and sister H.S. Aycock. Particularly noteworthy are three letters, 25 Nov. 1886, 26 Sept. 188[?], and 8 Sept. 1890, from former slave Rosa Covington to her former master, F.F. Covington.

Hallie Covington first appears as a correspondent in Mar. 1896 with letters to her brother and parents. Her letters continue during her student years at Columbia's College for Women, 1901-1905. Hallie's circle of family correspondents was wide. Included are letters from the following family members: her mother, Susan Lenora Aycock Covington; her father, Francis Frederick Covington; her brother, Frank Covington, Jr., and his wife, Flora Covington; her sisters, Elizabeth Fullwood Covington DuBose and Henrietta Aycock Covington Townsend; her nephews, David Stuart Covington, D. Earle Townsend, Jr., and Frank C. Townsend; and her niece, Lenora Townsend Hadley. Beyond the realm of family members, correspondents include other Korean missionaries and officials of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions, and the Biblical Seminary in N.Y.

Hallie Covington's involvement in foreign mission work dates from the pivotal period between the close of World War I and the outbreak of World War II hostilities in the Pacific. She was appointed by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. on 15 Aug. 1917 and left for the mission field on 11 Oct. 1917, sailing from Vancouver, British Columbia, aboard the S.S. *Empress of Japan*. Assigned to Syenchun, Korea, Covington remained there until 1923, when she returned to the United States on furlough and pursued studies at the Biblical Seminary, New York City. Returning to Syenchun in 1924, she remained in Korea until 1930. Upon her return to the United States on furlough, she continued her studies at the Biblical Seminary, New York City.

Between 1931 and 1935 Hallie Covington was detained at home on account of the illness of her father; however, in 1935 she was once again in New York and in 1936 received her master's degree in religious education from The Biblical Seminary. She was reappointed by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. on 16 Dec. 1935 and in 1937 returned to Korea, stationed at Chairyung as principal of the Women's Bible Institute until her repatriation in 1941.

In Mar. 1941 Hallie Covington, along with a number of other mission workers attached to the Chosen mission, was arrested on charges of engaging in an anti-war campaign throughout the Korean peninsula, an allegation which grew out of their distribution of World Day of Prayer literature. Though not imprisoned, she and her fellow detainees were subject to call, and the Japanese *de facto* government indicated its intention to bring them to trial unless they left the country. By Sept. 1941 Hallie Covington was in Shanghai, China. She sailed aboard the French liner *D'Artaganan* for Manila, Philippines, 29 Oct. 1941, and left there, 27 Nov. 1941, aboard the S.S. *President Coolidge*, bound for Honolulu, Hawaii. While en route to Hawaii, Japan declared war on the United States. In the final leg of her return voyage,

Hallie Covington sailed from Honolulu, 19 Dec. 1941. She reached the San Francisco, Ca., on 26 Dec. 1941.

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DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box 1 **Biographical**

Including vitae, obituary notices, newspaper clippings, and other biographical materials documenting the life of Hallie Covington. Also containing genealogical information on the Covington and allied families.

Boxes 1-4 **Personal/Family Papers, 1837-1976 and undated**

Consisting of family and personal correspondence representing several generations of the Covington, Aycock, and Harlee families. Early items include letters of Harrison W. Covington, an address by Mary Ann Harlee upon the presentation of a flag to the Cheraw Light Infantry, and letters from Benjamin Hamilton Covington to Mary Ann Harlee. The collection includes no Civil War documents. Family correspondence resumes with letters exchanged by brothers David, F.F., and Ted Covington and Lenora Aycock Covington and her mother, Elizabeth Aycock, her brother, W.J. Aycock, and her sister, H.S. Aycock. Also present are letters from former slave Rosa Covington to her former master, F.F. Covington.

Hallie Covington's correspondence begins in 1896, continues during her years at the College for Women, Columbia, S.C., and dominates the remainder of the collection. Her circle of correspondents included the following family members: her mother, Susan Lenora Aycock Covington; her father, Francis Frederick Covington; her brother, Frank Covington, Jr., and his wife, Flora Covington; her sisters, Elizabeth Fullwood Covington DuBose and Henrietta Aycock Covington Townsend; her nephews, David Stuart Covington, D. Earle Townsend, Jr., and Frank C. Townsend; and her niece, Lenora Townsend Hadley.

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Consisting of personal reports of Hallie Covington, 1917-1930, 1937-1938, and 1941, and fellow Korean missionaries, Charles Allen Clark and Henry W. Lampe, as well as newsletters reporting on Presbyterian mission work in Korea.

Box 5 **Newspapers, 1944-1950**

Including specimen copies of miscellaneous Korean-language newspapers and newsclippings and four issues of *The Voice of Korea*, an English-Korean language newspaper published in Los Angeles, Ca.

- Boxes 5-6 Photographs**
Subdivided into photographs, postcards, and Korean greeting cards, this series includes images of members of the Covington family and allied families, as well as visual materials relating to mission work in Korea.
- Boxes 6-7 Manuscript Volumes, 1881-1929 and undated**
Consisting of account books, diaries, prayer calendars, and religion notebooks of Hallie Covington, with miscellaneous volumes of her father, F.F. Covington, and her sister, Elizabeth Fullwood Covington DuBose.
- Box 7 Published Volumes**
Assorted books, serial publications, and pamphlets relating to Korea and the mission work of the Presbyterian Church there.

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| Box 3 | Personal/Family Papers
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| Box 4 | Personal/Family Papers
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Charles Allen Clark, 1942-1943
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Chosen Mission, 1921-1929
<i>The Korea Klipper</i> , 1938, 1946, 1958, 1959, 1967
Korea Sunday School Association, Feb. 1925
<i>The Korean Open Letter</i> , Mar. 1946
Henry W. Lampe, 1932
<i>Pyongyang News</i> , 1934
<i>The Voice of Korea</i> , 1943-1962

Newspapers
<i>Korean Independence</i> , 1944-1950
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Photographs (see also oversize)
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Korea
Identified
Unidentified | Folders 187-214 |

Box 6 Photographs Folders 215-224

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 Unidentified
 Negatives
 Postcards
 China
 Korea
 United States
 Greeting Cards (Korean)

Manuscript Volumes

Elizabeth Fullwood Covington [DuBose]
 Diary, Jan. - Mar. 1917
 Notebook, 1921-1922
 Minute books (3 volumes), 1952-1959,
 Wildflower Club, Darlington, S.C.
 Francis Frederick Covington
 Account book, Jan. 1881
 Bank book, with notes of Hallie Covington,
 1916-1917

Hallie Covington

Korea diary, Dec. 1917-Dec. 1918
 Korea diary/notebook, Dec. 1917 - Feb. 1920
 Prayer calendar, 1921, Korea diary
 Account book, 1921, record of household expenses in Korea
 Itenerating account book, 1921-1928, record of expenses in
 Prayer calendar, 1922, with record of expenses in Korea
 Account book, 1924, record of expenses while in New York City
 Prayer calendar, 1926, Korea diary with record of expenses
 Korea diary, Sept. 1928 - Oct. 1929
 Prayer calendar, 1929, Korea diary with record of expenses
 Prayer calendar, 1930, Korea diary with record of expenses
 Account book, 1930-1931, record of expenses during American
 furlough
 Account book, 1931-1932, record of household expenses,
 Marion, S.C.
 Account book, 1933, inventory of personal possessions
 Account book, 1935-1936, record of expenses in New York
 Account book, 1936, with notes on religion
 Prayer calendar, 1940, Korea
 Prayer calendar, 1941, Korea
 Account book, 1941, record of expenses on return to San
 Francisco
 Notebook, May 1943, notes on religion, Biblical Seminary
 of New York
 Notebook, 1948, school notes, notes on social work
 Automobile mileage records (6 volumes), Jan. 1949 - July 1953
 Notebook, 1959, notes on religion
 Memorandum book, n.d. (ca. early 1900s)
 Account book, n.d.
 Account book, n.d., inventory of personal possessions
 Mission account book/religion notebook, n.d.
 Notebook, n.d., notes in Korean
 Notebook, n.d., notes on religion
 Notebook, n.d., notes on religion
 Memorandum book, n.d.
 Music book, n.d., Korean

Box 7 Published Volumes

*Annual Report of Seoul Station of the Chosen Mission of the
 Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., 1932-1933*
Bible Classes for Women in the Taiku District
Bible Society Record July 1952 (vol. 97, no. 6)

- Board of Missionary Preparation, *The Missionary Furlough*
(1921)
- Broadcasts From Korea (3 copies)
- Bulletin of the Pyengyang Foreign School, Pyengyang,
Korea, 1923-24
- Campbell, Arch. *The Christ of the Korean Heart* (1954)
- Department of State, Korea 1945 to 1948, A Report on
*Political Developments and Economic Resources with Selected
Documents*
- Elliott, Helen. *Through a Far East Window Being Impressions
of Korea*
- The 50th Anniversary of the Chosen Mission of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., June 30 - July 3, 1934, at
Seoul, Korea (Chosen)*
- Hopkirk, C.C. *Korean Lepers* (1925)
- Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions, *The
Independent Board Bulletin*
Feb. 1935
June 1935
- International Missionary Council and World Council of
Churches, *The Church in East Asia, Findings of the East
Asian Christian Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, December 3-11,
1949*
- The Korea Mission Field*
Jan. 1921 (vol. 17, no. 1)
Jan. 1932 (vol. 28, no. 1)
Sept. 1935 (vol. 31, no. 9)
- Korean Research Council, *Korean Research Bulletin*
Sept. 1943 (vol. 1, no. 2)
- Mackay, John A. "East Asia Under God." Reprinted
from *Theology Today* by the Board of Foreign Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
*Manual of the Board of Foreign Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.* (1933)
- Minutes and Reports of the Sixty-third Annual Meeting of
the Korea Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
Seoul, Korea, June 24 - July 1, 1957*
- Monsen, Marie. *Resting in God's Faithfulness During Twenty
Three Days Amongst Pirates* (1929)
- Morris, Harriett. *Korean Recipes* (1945)
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S., Korea, *Laymen's Missionary
Movement*
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S., Board of World Missions,
Korea (1960)
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
*The Findings of the Lakeville Conference of June 20-30,
1931*
Yearbook of Prayer for Missions, 1933, 1937
New Map Talk Series Korea
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Board of Foreign Missions
- Speer, Robert E. *Foreign Missions Are Going On* (1933)
- Hanzsche, William Thomson. *And They Went Forth* (1937)
Now in Korea
*Report of Syenchun Station of the Chosen Mission of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., 1933-1934*
- Rhodes, Harry A., ed. *History of the Korea Mission
Presbyterian Church U.S.A. 1884-1934*
- Sauer, Charles A., comp. *The Story of Seoul Union Church,
1886-1961*
- Whittemore, Maud Wellesley Parsons. *Poems* (1951)
- Woman's Work, A Foreign Missions Magazine*
Feb. 1924 (vol. 39, no. 2)
Nov. 1923 (vol. 38, no. 11)

Women and Missions

Feb. 1932 (vol. 8, no. 11)

Apr. 1939 (vol. 16, no. 1)

July 1937 (vol. 14, no. 4)

Apr. 1933 (vol. 10, no. 1)

Administrative Notes

Processed by: Laura M. Costello and Henry G. Fulmer.

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Consisting of account books, diaries, prayer calendars, and religion notebooks of Hallie Covington, with miscellaneous volumes of her father, F.F. Covington, and her sister, Elizabeth Fullwood Covington DuBose.

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Newspapers

Korean Independence, 1944-1950
 Miscellaneous (Korean)

Photographs (see also oversize)

Family
 Korea
 Identified
 Unidentified

Box 6 Photographs Folders 215-224
 Korea
 Unidentified
 Negatives
 Postcards
 China
 Korea
 United States
 Greeting Cards (Korean)

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 Prayer calendar, 1926, Korea diary with record of expenses
 Korea diary, Sept. 1928 - Oct. 1929

Prayer calendar, 1929, Korea diary with record of expenses
 Prayer calendar, 1930, Korea diary with record of expenses
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 Prayer calendar, 1940, Korea
 Prayer calendar, 1941, Korea
 Account book, 1941, record of expenses on return to San
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 Notebook, May 1943, notes on religion, Biblical Seminary
 of New York
 Notebook, 1948, school notes, notes on social work
 Automobile mileage records (6 volumes), Jan. 1949 - July 1953
 Notebook, 1959, notes on religion
 Memorandum book, n.d. (ca. early 1900s)
 Account book, n.d.
 Account book, n.d., inventory of personal possessions
 Mission account book/religion notebook, n.d.
 Notebook, n.d., notes in Korean
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 Notebook, n.d., notes on religion
 Memorandum book, n.d.
 Music book, n.d., Korean

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